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**SEP 28 2004**

TO: USPTO Examining Group 2600

FAX NO.: (703)872-9314

FROM: Thomas A. Ward

RE: Interview Summary for Interview Conducted 9/24/04

DATE: September 28, 2004 Total Pages : 4 (including fax cover sheet)

Original will follow by mail: NoIf you do not receive all of the pages, please call Sherri Hale at 415.362.3800.*In re Application:*

Inventors: Wong, et al. Appl. No.: 09/847,005  
Confirm. No.: 5364 Filed: May 2, 2001  
Entitled: Network Communication System Using Assigned Timeslots For Nodes To Request  
A Bandwidth Amount For Data Transmission With Resulting Grant For The Node  
To Transmit

In connection with the above-mentioned pat. application, please see the attached Interview  
Summary For Interview Conducted **September 24, 2004**.

Thank you,  
Sherri Hale for Thomas A. Ward

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application

Inventors: Wong, et al.  
 SC/Serial No.: 09/847,005  
 Confirm. No.: 5364  
 Filed: May 2, 2001  
 Title: Network Communication System Using Assigned Timeslots For Nodes To Request A Bandwidth Amount For Data Transmission With Resulting Grant For The Node To Transmit

PATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 2686  
 Examiner: Yuwen Pan

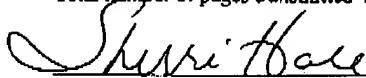
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Sherrri Hale  
 Signature Date: September 28, 2004

**INTERVIEW SUMMARY FOR INTERVIEW CONDUCTED  
 SEPTEMBER 24, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Provided below is the summary of discussions from a telephone interview held between the undersigned, Thomas A. Ward, and Examiner Yuwen Pan on September 24, 2004.

Examiner Yuwen Pan initially telephoned to respond to the interview conducted on September 23, 2004. Examiner Pan indicated that an agreement had been reached on all issues discussed, except one issue - namely he stated that the term "bandwidth" used in the claims was still considered to be new matter not supported by the specification.

Regarding agreements reached, the Examiner specifically stated that he agreed that the first claim language portion "said first request signal including a request for a specified amount

of bandwidth," was supported by the specification, in that at least the number of packets or data amount for a message was required to be transmitted with the request based on Applicants' specification and Section 132 Declarations submitted. The Examiner further stated again that he agreed that the second language portion "said second signal allocating at least one time slot to the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller," was inherent from Applicants' specification.

Regarding the definition of "bandwidth" the Examiner stated he agreed that the definition 2 provided by Applicants in the interview of September 23, 2004 was an accurate definition of the term "bandwidth" at the time of Applicants' earliest priority date of June 24, 1994. Definition 2 for "bandwidth" from the September 23 Interview was - 2. The amount of data that can be passed along a communications channel in a given period of time. The second definition was further identified as a term for memory or data capacity, e.g. the statement "I do not have the *bandwidth* to remember all the information you just told me."

The Examiner stated, however, that he did not yet agree that the term "bandwidth" from definition 2 was supported by the specification. He said that "[t]he amount of data" (from definition 2) for transmission in a message was disclosed by the number of packets to be transmitted on specification page 11, line 9. But, the "given period of time" (from definition 2) needed for transmission was not disclosed.

In response, Applicants stated that the specification did provide support for the entire definition 2 for "bandwidth." Applicants stated that the "amount of data" (e.g.-number of packets) indicated by a transmitter for transmission, as disclosed in the specification, also identifies "given period of time" needed for transmission, as indicated by the specification pages detailed to follow.

Messages are described as being transmitted using four separate frequencies  $f_1-f_4$  on page 8, line 23 through page 9, line 15 as shown in Fig. 6 of the specification. After a request and grant phase using frequencies  $f_4$  and  $f_2$ , message data is transmitted only on frequency  $f_3$ , a clocked time slotted signal synchronized with clocking signal  $f_1$ . The clocked separate

frequencies  $f_1-f_4$  are aligned as illustrated in Fig. 6 and described on page 19, lines 25-page 20, line 12. Message "alphanumeric data" characters are transmitted in packets on the clocked channel  $f_3$ , as disclosed on page 13, lines 14-20, and will require a fixed number of clock cycles on  $f_3$  for transmission of each character (e.g. for an alphanumeric ASCII character 15 clock cycles are required in one system to transmit each character). Accordingly, with knowledge of the number of message characters transmitted, the amount of time (clock cycles) for transmission of the characters can be calculated. Thus, an indicated amount of number of packets of data for a message to transmit, also indicates to a controller the "given period of time" needed for transmission. Accordingly with the original specification, an indicated "amount of data" for transmission also provides a "given period of time" or total "bandwidth" needed according to definition 2.

Examiner Pan indicated he would consider Applicant's remarks with his S.P.E., Lester Kinkaid. Examiner Pan recommended a further conference with his S.P.E. before agreement could be reached.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/28/04

By: Thomas Ward  
Thomas A. Ward  
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